Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.　(Currently Amended) A method ~~for providing~~ to provide short messaging service (SMS) messages to a receiving party associated with a plurality of devices, the method comprising:

receiving, at a server device, a SMS message [[for]] addressed to a first device of the plurality of devices;

identifying, by the server device, a second device of the plurality of devices as a preferred device, instead of the first device, to receive ~~for receiving~~ the SMS message based on information stored by the receiving party at the server device, where the second device is identified without sending the SMS message to the first device;

formatting, by the server device, the SMS message according to characteristics of the preferred device; and

sending, by the server device, the formatted message to the preferred device, where sending the formatted message includes sending the formatted message via a pathway that does not include the first device.

2.　(Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ where:

the preferred device comprises an SMS-compatible device,

formatting the SMS message includes formatting the message in an SMS format, and

sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to [[a]] the

SMS-capable device.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ where sending the

formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to an e-mail address that the

receiving party can access via the preferred device.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ where sending the

formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to an instant messenger client that

the receiving party can run on the preferred device.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ where sending the

formatted message comprises sending the formatted message as a voice message that the

receiving party can access via the preferred device ~~to a phone~~.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ where sending the

formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to digital companion client

software that the receiving party can run on the preferred device.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~comprising~~ where sending the

formatted message comprises:

determining when the preferred device is available to receive the formatted message,

storing ~~messages~~ the formatted message in a database when the preferred device is not available to receive the formatted message ~~messages~~, and

recovering the stored formatted message when the preferred device is available to receive the formatted message.

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for providing~~ to provide short message service (SMS) messages to a user associated with a plurality of devices, the apparatus comprising:

a database ~~for storing~~ to store information identifying each device of the plurality of devices and identifying a first device of the plurality of devices as a preferred device;

a gateway server ~~for receiving~~ to receive a SMS message identifying a second device of the plurality of devices;

~~a server function for identifying the preferred device instead of the second device for receiving the SMS message in response to receiving the SMS message, the preferred device being different than the second device~~; and

a SMS server ~~for sending~~ to:

implement a server function to identify the preferred device instead of the second device for receiving the SMS message in response to receiving the SMS

-4-

message, the preferred device being different than the second device, where the server functions identifies the preferred device without sending the SMS message to the second device;

~~send the SMS message to the preferred device, the SMS server being further configured to~~ format the SMS message in accordance with characteristics of the preferred device ~~before sending the SMS message to the preferred device,~~ and

send the [[SMS]] message to the preferred device, where the SMS server, when sending the formatted message, is further to determine a pathway to the preferred device that does not include the second device.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, ~~wherein~~ where the SMS server is further ~~configured~~ to store messages to a database when the preferred device is not available to receive messages.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for providing~~ to provide short message service (SMS) messages to a user associated with a plurality of devices, comprising:

means for storing a specification of a preferred device;

means for receiving a SMS message identifying one device of the plurality of devices;

means for selecting the preferred device instead of the identified one device for receiving the SMS message in response to receiving the SMS message, the preferred device being different than the identified one device, where the preferred device is identified without sending the SMS message to indentified one device; and

means for sending the SMS message to the preferred device, the means for sending the SMS message comprising means for formatting the SMS message in accordance with characteristics of the preferred device before sending the SMS message to the preferred device, where the means for sending the SMS message employs a pathway to the preferred device that does not include the identified one device.

13.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, ~~wherein~~ where the means for sending the SMS message comprises means for storing messages to a database when the preferred device is not available to receive messages.

14-15. (Canceled)

16.   (Currently Amended) A method, performed by a network routing device, the method comprising:

receiving a short message service (SMS) message including information identifying a first destination device;

identifying a second destination device instead of the first destination device for receiving the SMS message in response to receiving the SMS message, the second destination device being

different than the first destination device, where the second destination device is identified
without sending the SMS message to the first destination device;

formatting the SMS message based on the second destination device; and

sending, via a pathway that does not include the first destination device, the formatted
SMS message to the second destination device.

17.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 ~~wherein~~ where the first
destination device and the second destination device are associated with a receiving party, and
~~wherein~~ where the identifying includes:

identifying the second destination device based on a profile associated with
receiving party.